

## ***Policy on Telephonic Appearances***

Hearings Before

Honorable Michael G. Williamson

Last Revised-August 9, 2010

1. Generally.
  - a. Subject to the restrictions and procedures set forth below, telephonic appearances must be arranged by contacting CourtCall at 866-582-6878 not later than 5 PM Eastern time on the business day prior to the hearing date.
  - b. CourtCall will provide counsel with written confirmation of a telephonic appearance and give counsel a number to call to make a telephonic appearance. It is counsel's responsibility to dial into the call by the time of the scheduled hearing. CourtCall does not place a call to counsel.
  - c. The initial charge per participant for a CourtCall appearance is \$30 for the first 45 minutes and then \$7 for each additional 15-minute increment (these charges may from time to time be subject to revision by CourtCall). If you do not timely call and connect with the CourtCall operator, you will be billed for the call, and the hearing will proceed in your absence.
2. Restrictions.
  - a. Only practicing attorneys who are not residents of the Tampa Division may appear telephonically.
  - b. Telephonic appearances are limited to the following matters:
    - i. Pretrial Hearings.
    - ii. Preliminary Hearings.
    - iii. Scheduling and Status Conferences.
    - iv. Chapter 11 Hearings.
  - c. Participation of counsel appearing by telephone will be limited to a short statement or argument in support of or in opposition to the relief requested. Counsel may not engage in extended argument or participate in the introduction of evidence or examination of witnesses if the Court determines it is appropriate to receive evidence at the scheduled hearing.
3. General Procedures.
  - a. To ensure the quality of the record, the use of speakerphones is prohibited. When not speaking, Counsel should cover the telephone handset or use the mute option to minimize background noise.
  - b. At the time of your hearing, you may initially be in the listening mode in which case you will be able to hear the case before yours just as if you were in the courtroom.
  - c. After your call is connected to the courtroom, the Courtroom Deputy will call the case and the judge will request appearances.
  - d. Each time you speak, you should identify yourself for the record.